

Colorado State Patrol Hazardous Materials Section

The Colorado State Patrol (CSP) is the designated emergency response authority (DERA) according to CRS 29-22-102(5)(a) which states: “if a hazardous substance incident occurs on any federal, state, or county highway located outside of municipal city limits, the Colorado state patrol shall be the emergency response authority for such hazardous substance incident”. Twenty-seven CSP Hazardous Materials Technicians cover 59 of the 64 Colorado counties in this capacity. Our Certified State Hazardous Materials Technicians are responsible for emergency response, mitigation, and investigation. They ensure that proper clean-up is completed at these hazardous substance incident scenes. Calls for service include, but are not limited to: commercial motor vehicle crashes; fixed and mobile methamphetamine labs; unknown chemical spills; hazardous substance intentional dumping; threatening white powder calls; exploding pipelines; internal and external agency assists, and so forth.

Each Trooper and Supervisor undergoes extensive training and maintains specialized State Hazardous Materials Technician certifications in order to develop technical expertise to ensure safe response and compliance with state and federal regulations. It can take up to one year of additional specialized training to become a CSP Hazardous Materials Technician. Troopers are required to maintain all CSP Trooper certifications while assigned to the Section and fulfill routine Trooper responsibilities of enforcement and protection of the motoring public. Trooper certifications through the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance allow them to conduct inspections of radiological and nuclear waste transporters, cargo tank, and other bulk packaging commercial vehicles.

Current staffing to fulfill this unique mission includes:

- One CSP Captain; located in Golden
- Three CSP Sergeants; located in Golden, Pueblo and Grand Junction
- Twenty-three CSP Troopers assigned to full-time response and enforcement; located throughout the State
- Two CSP Troopers assigned to training and equipment certifications, maintenance, and part-time response and enforcement; located in Golden
- One Program Assistant II assigned to budget management and reimbursement requests from assisting response agencies; located in Golden
- One General Professional VI Program Manager assigned to management and oversight of the Nuclear Materials Transportation Program; located in Golden
- One Administrative Assistant III; located in Golden
- One General Professional III assigned as a branch intelligence analyst; located in Golden

The Chief of the CSP is responsible for statewide hazardous materials routing, regulation, and reimbursement rulemaking which he delegates to the Hazardous Material Section. This requires close communication and cooperation among all levels of government and private industry, who are directly involved in the interstate and intrastate transportation of hazardous materials. The CSP Hazardous Materials Section is one of very few across the nation that combines hazardous substance incident response with law enforcement and is often looked to for guidance and best practices.

